

Appl. No.: 10/802,693
Amdt. Dated: 12/26/2007
Off. Act. Dated: 04/26/2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. Amendment of independent Claim 87.

Claims 87-89, 91-93, and 95-97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamilton (WO 94/07688).

Claim 90 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Hamilton (WO 94/07688) in view of Ronden (U.S. Patent No. 3,726,651).

Claim 94 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Hamilton (WO 94/07688) in view of Weber (U.S. Patent No. 2,791,802).

At the outset, the Applicant does not acquiesce in the Examiner's rejections based on Hamilton, Ronden, or Weber. Nevertheless, independent Claim 87 has been amended to more particularly recite particular structural aspects of the compression conveyer screw of the instant invention.

Amended Claim 87 recites:

A compression conveyor auger assembly, for transporting and compressing waxed corrugated cardboard segments, comprising:
a housing, said housing including an inlet end and an outlet end, wherein said outlet end is tapered;
an opening on said housing, said opening disposed adjacent said inlet end of said housing; and
a compression conveyor screw rotatably disposed within said housing, said compression conveyor screw including a helical blade extending between said inlet end and said outlet end of said housing, said helical blade including a plurality of flights;
wherein said helical blade includes a pusher side and a rear side; and
weld buildups on said pusher side and said rear side of said helical blade;
wherein length and height of all said weld buildups vary with positioning of said
blade relative to said outlet end of said housing;
wherein each flight is divided into a plurality of stations;
wherein said compression conveyer screw, from one end of said housing to the
other, exhibits a uniform amount of change in angular displacement from a
station to an adjacent station; and

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wherein said housing and said compression conveyer screw are configured to orient and align the cardboard segments in a circumferentially-disposed manner about a periphery of said compression conveyer screw and to move said cardboard segments forward while said cardboard segments are being disposed horizontally.

Support for this amendment is found in at least paragraphs [00119]-[00123], FIGS. 7-26, and Tables 1-2. It is respectfully submitted that the measurements provided in the Specification are non-limiting examples, as stated in at least paragraphs [00122] and [00159].

Because Hamilton lacks these structural elements of the claims, and because neither Ronden nor Weber cure these deficiencies, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a) must be withdrawn.

2. Amendments Made Without Prejudice or Estoppel.

Notwithstanding the amendments made and accompanying traversing remarks provided above, Applicants have made these amendments in order to expedite allowance of the currently pending subject matter. However, Applicants do not acquiesce in the original ground for rejection with respect to the original form of these claims. These amendments have been made without any prejudice, waiver, or estoppel, and without forfeiture or dedication to the public, with respect to the original subject matter of the claims as originally filed or in their form immediately preceding these amendments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original scope of these claims in the future, such as through continuation practice, for example.

3. Conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the various grounds for rejection in the Office Action be reconsidered and withdrawn with respect to the presently amended form of the claims, and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for the present application to pass to issuance.

In the event any further matters remain at issue with respect to the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner please contact the

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undersigned below at the telephone number indicated in order to discuss such matter prior to the next action on the merits of this application.

Date: December 26, 2007 Respectfully submitted,

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